

19. Claim 19. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

20. Claim 20: An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3. -

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 7, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are presented for consideration.

REMARKS

The Examiner, in view of Applicants preliminary amendment, dated January 25, 2002, wherein claims 12-17 were newly added, has advanced another Restriction Requirement further requiring Applicants to elect one of three (3) inventions allegedly embraced by the newly added claims.

Group I, claims 7, 12, 16 and 17 drawn to an expression vector and a host cell having SEQ ID NO: 2;

Group II, claims 7, 13, 14, 16 and 17 drawn to an expression vector and a host cell having SEQ ID NOs: 4 and 5, because, according to the Office Action, SEQ ID NO:4 is a part of SEQ ID NO:5

Group III, claims 7, and 15-17 drawn to an expression vector and a host cell having SEQ ID NO: 7 .

Applicants respectfully elect the invention defined by Group II, claims 7, 13, 14, 16 and 17, without prejudice to the prosecution of the non-elected claims in a related patent application.

Applicants further request that newly added claims 18 - 20 be considered with the above election considering that each of the newly added claims are drawn to the nucleic acid molecules encoding the proteins of SEQ ID NO:4 and 5.

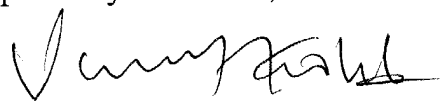
Applicants retain the right to petition from the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.144. Favorable reconsideration of the Restriction requirement is respectfully requested. It is believed that the claims are in a condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, he is requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below.

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Any additional fees required in connection with this submission may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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